Louisiana Department of Public Safety
Office of Motor Vehicles
**Policy 18.01 Reciprocity with Other Countries**

**Section:** 1. Issuance of Driver's License

**Effective Date:** 01/01/2019

**Revised Date:** 08/01/2026

**Authority:**
R.S. 32:404

**Purpose:** To allow first time applicants with legal presence presenting a foreign driver's license, from countries with which the department has entered into a reciprocity agreement, to be issued a Louisiana class D or E driver's license without having to take the written and road skills tests.

**Definitions:**

- **Reciprocal –** an agreement or obligation bearing on or binding each of two parties equally.
- **Reciprocity-** the practice of exchanging things with others for mutual benefit, especially privileges granted by one country or organization to another.

**General:**

- The Department may enter into a reciprocal agreement with a foreign country which would allow citizens of that foreign country to apply for and be issued a Louisiana driver's license without taking a driver education course, written test, or road skills tests. Similarly, Louisiana citizens would be able to apply for and be issued a driver's license in the same foreign country without taking a written or road test.
- **Foreign countries which have entered into a reciprocity agreement with Louisiana:**
    - **Germany** –Effective 10/01/98 (Implemented 12/01/98)
    - **Switzerland** -Effective 07/1/2001
    - **Taiwan** -Effective 08/14/2018
        - **NOTE**-notarized translations must be authenticated by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston or provided by a translator acceptable to the Office of Motor Vehicles.
    - **South Korea –** Effective 02/04/2019
    - **Republic of Ireland –** Effective 08/01/2026
    - If an individual has an **H2A Visa/status**, the following countries have a reciprocity agreement with Louisiana:
        - Belize
        - Costa Rica
        - El Salvador
        - Guatemala
        - Honduras
        - Panama
        - South Africa

**The following US Territories are exempted from testing**:

  - American Samoa
  - Guam
  - Mariana Islands
  - Marshall Islands
  - Palau, Micronesia
  - Puerto Rico
  - U.S. Virgin Islands
- Commercial Driver's Licenses for class A, B or C will have to comply with all licensing requirements as they are not included in this program.

**Requirements:**

- All applicants are required to follow the proof of identification guidelines found in Section 1, Policy 6.00, Identification Requirements.
  - The applicant must submit a valid The applicant must submit a valid DL from a country the department has an agreement with and the department can request a translation of the document if necessary.
  - The applicant must be able to pass the vision examination and shall be subject to all criminal, civil, and administrative laws governing the operation of a motor vehicle.
  - The applicant must retain the foreign license (as well as the International Driver's License if he is in possession of one) and keep the foreign license valid during the entire time period the Louisiana license is valid.

**Related Policies:**

Section 1, Policy 6.00 Identification Requirements
Section 1, Policy 6.01 Driver Education Requirements
Section 1, Policy 6.02 Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Issuance